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Security Council

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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia

Note verbale dated 17 August 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia, and in reference to the letter dated 17 February 2009, has the honour to enclose herewith the report of the Government of the Republic of Yemen regarding its views on the findings of the Monitoring Group on Somalia dated 20 November 2008 (S/2008/769), as well as the measures taken to implement paragraphs 1 to 7 of Security Council resolution 1844 (2008) (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 17 August 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

[Original: Arabic]

Comments of the Republic of Yemen regarding United Nations Security Council resolution 1844 (2008) and the report of the Monitoring Group on Somalia

1. Yemen declares that it is fully committed to United Nations Security Council resolution 1844 (2008) and affirms its determination to implement all the measures contained therein.

2. Yemen is not a party to the events in Somalia, but has a keen interest in the stability of Somalia and the restoration of security to all of its territory, given their importance to security and peace in the region and in the Gulf of Aden and their potential contribution to ending piracy. Yemen believes that the principal obstacle to the restoration of peace and stability to Somalia is the regional tension that fuels the conflict.

3. Yemen is committed to taking the necessary measures to prevent the entry into or transit through its territory of individuals designated by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia.

4. Yemen will take legal measures to freeze the funds, other financial assets and economic resources which are on its territory, which are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the individuals or entities designated by the Committee, and to ensure that any funds or financial assets are prevented from being made available for the benefit of such individuals or entities.

5. Yemen will take appropriate measures to prevent the supply, sale or transfer through its territory of weapons and military equipment and the provision of assistance, technical training, financial assistance and other services related to military activities to the individuals or entities designated by the Committee.

6. Following its revolution, independence and later unification, Yemen experienced conflict resulting in widespread possession of weapons by citizens in all parts of the country. The Yemeni Government recently took a decision to close and eliminate arms markets. It continues to buy up large quantities of arms on the market, and has limited the import of arms to the Government alone. These efforts have met with some success and have been recognized by the Monitoring Group.

7. The Yemeni Coast Guard and Navy patrol the coastline to the best of their abilities. Several cases of interception of ships carrying weapons to Somalia have been reported, and the Monitoring Group has been informed of those incidents.

8. Yemen has cooperated fully with the Monitoring Group, been forthcoming in responding to its questions, and kept it informed about efforts to combat arms smuggling and prevent arms trafficking. However, the Monitoring Group has included in its report undocumented claims which the security forces are unable to use as the basis for identifying and pursuing the parties involved in arms smuggling. The Monitoring Team is asked to provide any relevant information.

9. The Yemeni Coast Guard is recently established, has limited capabilities, and expends substantial effort on fighting piracy. Given the length of its coastline, Yemen is cooperating with friendly States to enhance the capabilities and build the capacities of its forces to carry out their role and step up naval patrols along the length of the Yemeni coast.